

Amendment, a proposed constitutional amendment that sought to correct the erroneous claim that there is a constitutional right to abortion, one that prohibits States from protecting unborn human life, and steadfastly advocating for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Orrin Hatch defended life, religious liberty, economic responsibility, and personal freedom throughout his entire service in the U.S. Senate. His 750 proposals that became law cover everything from welfare reform to regulatory restructuring, to laws adjusting the Federal judiciary, to hallmark tax cuts. Hatch's tenure in the Senate was marked by his chairmanship of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Finance Committee, before serving as President Pro Tempore.

Senator Hatch helped rein in activist Federal judges and reformed the entire Federal judiciary, and has helped restore the true meaning of the Constitution as applied and interpreted by our courts.

Senator Hatch played a prime role in the nomination of every Supreme Court Justice for decades. He defended the Court and the honor of Justices serving and presenting themselves with different judicial philosophies.

Beyond his countless political accomplishments, Orrin Hatch was a dedicated father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and man of faith. He always remembered the most important things in life. He composed countless songs of praise and of patriotism. He served as a volunteer leader in his church congregations and in his communities. He founded the Orrin G. Hatch Foundation to carry on and remember his work and advocacy for collegiality and bipartisanship after his retirement from the Senate.

Orrin Hatch always remembered Utah. On weekends, you could find him at the grocery store, in his church congregation, rubbing elbows with people he knew and loved. He would talk about the politics of the day but also the news affecting communities and families he cared for. Those who knew him felt the care and the interest that he had.

After I had served as his Senate page, as a high school student, there were just a couple of photos on my wall as a teenager. One was of Karl Malone in his Utah Jazz jersey and another was a photo of me with Senator Orrin Hatch, one of my prized possessions.

Later, when I was serving as a missionary along the U.S.-Mexico border, on the Texas side, Senator Hatch sent me a note, along with a \$10 check, suggesting that I use it to go get a good lunch. I cherished the note and never could cash the check. You see, the memory and the memento were worth so much more than the lunch it could buy. I still have that check. It is a prized possession.

Orrin Hatch also remembered to work. He would come to the Senate

early and stay late. He would think years ahead and persistently, methodically, pursue his plans. He would take the time to build coalitions behind ideas and bring about needed reforms. Senator Hatch knew that the Senate was designed to be the cooling saucer, where ideas would steep and percolate, often over the course of years and even decades.

Yet Orrin always remembered the people behind the politics. He was a mentor and a friend to Senators from both sides of the aisle, and he built deep friendships with people of all political backgrounds. He cherished a friendship with Senator Ted Kennedy and called the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg a dear friend.

He instilled his hallmark good humor and sense of duty on the newer Members of the Senate. I was one of them. He greeted and accepted me warmly—mentioning only a few times over the years the fact that I had, decades previously, served as his Senate page.

He was a force for collegiality and co-operation, and while he remained dedicated to the principles and people who brought him to the Senate, he would work with anyone and everyone to get the job done.

Orrin Hatch was a giant of the Senate and a veritable pillar in Utah. His influence, his hearty laugh, and powerful advice are missed by us here in the Senate and by millions in Utah. I know I speak for the entire Senate in sending our deepest condolences and warmest appreciation to Elaine and to their children—Brent, Marcia, Scott, Kimberly, Alysa, and Jess, as well as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The gift of Senator Hatch's life of service has made our State and our Nation better.

As I said, there is perhaps no more noble title in Utah than that of pioneer. Orrin Hatch was a pioneer, through and through—not just the descendant of pioneers but a pioneer in his own right. He followed in the footsteps of his forebearers, and he left a legacy of dedication, of service, and of truth.

I commend his memory to the history of our Republic, in the words of a beloved hymn fittingly entitled "They the Builders of the Nation." Here is how it goes:

They, the builders of the nation,
Blazing trails along the way;
Stepping-stones for generations
Were their deeds of every day.
Building new and firm foundations,
Pushing on the wild frontier,
Forging onward, ever onward,
Blessed, honored Pioneer!

I bid my friend Senator Orrin Hatch onward, ever onward. May we as a nation forever remember his legacy is my prayer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Tennessee.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, from the second that they wake up in the morning to the moment they put

their heads on the pillow at night, the American people are burning through cash. And, as I have spent the last 2 weeks talking with Tennesseans, talking with people in the real world, this is a sentiment that they continue to talk about.

Now, they know inflation is real. It wasn't temporary. It wasn't something that was just a problem for the rich. It is a problem that hits every single individual, and the spin that is coming out of the White House really is not resonating with hard-working taxpayers anymore.

When I am out and about in Tennessee, people are talking about inflation, the border, and the sense of despair that they see taking over their communities. And they cannot get over the lengths to which this White House and this administration have gone to try to convince them that everything is OK, you don't have anything to worry about, and things are better than they have ever been.

They can't believe it. They can't believe that this administration is living in the land of denial, because they know that this message doesn't add up with the reality of their lives, and they have spent 16 months digging themselves out from under massive gas and grocery bills. Every time they fill up the tank or they fill up the grocery cart, they know that it is probably more than 8 percent inflation. Every time they go to the hardware store, they see it. When they are buying a gallon of paint or fertilizer for their garden, they see it. And the few discretionary dollars they used to allow themselves for some new clothes or the occasional food delivery now go to essentials, and, even then, they still are making tough choices. As I said, from the second they wake up in the morning to the moment their heads hit the pillow at night, the American people are burning through cash almost as fast as Joe Biden and the Democrats are burning through our taxpayer dollars.

The Biden administration might not take this seriously. They may say: We will just go print more money.

Look at the amount of debt they have run up. Tennesseans do take this issue seriously, and at this point, they laugh at the alternate reality coming from DC, and they know that the "Putin price hike" is something that is so divorced from reality.

It wasn't enough for Joe Biden to abandon his responsibilities. He had to take the extra step of exploiting the more than 2,500 innocent civilians Vladimir Putin has murdered in Ukraine. It is just disgusting. But that is the Democrats' playbook—isn't it?—never let a crisis go to waste; pick up words that you can use in your spin.

If the White House had stopped to think about what American taxpayers do when they are broke, when they have gotten to the end of their money before they get to the end of their month, when they have debt rolling

over them, then the White House might have realized that now is not the time to spend more money on programs that the taxpayers do not want.

Now, every Tennessean who has good common sense—we have got hundreds of thousands of them—they know that nobody would commit to a self-destructive agenda just because they thought they could force somebody else to go pick up the tab and pay for it.

It doesn't make sense, but that is what this administration is doing, and I think this is one of those things that, in their playbook, they think sounds great. But with the American people, this is going to backfire.

And through all of this, the President has shown the people who he is and what priorities really matter to him. Instead of exercising some much needed self-control, he decided to beg for the Green New Deal, wasteful social spending, and an election takeover. His allies in Congress have even come back to Washington ready to make a deal with the devil to resurrect his "Build Back Broke" agenda.

In the interest of bipartisanship, I would like to offer some thoughts to my Democratic colleagues. Next time that you go home, go over to the grocery store and ask a busy mom who is holding a shopping list in one hand and digital coupons on her phone in the other just how they are managing through this inflation crisis.

Ask them: Do you think it is stuck at 8 percent inflation? Do you think it is closer to 15 percent inflation?

Then, follow their advice, because I can guarantee you that they will choose to give you an earful. They are about fed up.

There are thousands of moms and grandmoms who know what they are doing, and, more importantly, they know how they are going to spend every single penny that they have itemized in their budget for groceries, for gas, for the summer garden. They know how they are going to spend that money.

They wish Washington would be as careful with taxpayer money as they are being with their hard-earned dollars.

It really makes them shake their heads when they hear that the caretakers of the most powerful Nation in the world have no vision for the future and no plan for how to get us to a vision.

All that this administration and the White House and the Democrats—who, by the way, are in charge of all the government here in Washington, DC—all they have is an agenda. They have got a to-do list. They are wanting to check the boxes, and that agenda is heavy on spending and light on everything else that matters to the American people.

And, by the way, all that heavy spending is not Federal Government money, mind you. It is money that is coming out of the pockets of hard-working taxpayers—every penny of it.

We know border security isn't on the Biden administration's list of priorities. It is not on the to-do list. It is not on the thinking-about-it list.

In the alternate reality that this White House is operating in, the only immigration policy that matters is guaranteeing an open border—the sooner they can get it, the better. They are all about it. We all know how well that policy has worked out so far.

On behalf of a lot of Tennesseans back home, I would like to inject a little reality into this conversation also.

Since day one of this administration, Joe Biden has done everything in his power to sabotage the Border Patrol and local law enforcement officials. His open borders rhetoric invited massive caravans of migrants to overwhelm the border. And just when we thought things couldn't get worse, he turned his back on President Trump's successful "Remain in Mexico" program. As a result, last month, encounters along our southern border were up 33 percent. That is right—up 33 percent in 1 month.

CBP regularly seizes millions of dollars' worth of meth, fentanyl, and heroin that would have otherwise landed in "Small Town, USA." And, now, President Biden wants to abandon title 42, which is the last best defense we have against this wave of illegal immigration. We already know that if he goes through with this, he will lose control of the border to the cartels.

The Border Patrol estimates that 18,000 people a day will try to make it across the border. Now, currently, there are 6,000 people a day. Those are record numbers. Think of what is going to happen if 18,000 people a day are rushing our southern border.

Now, let me give you a little perspective on this. Tennessee has 345 towns and cities. So we checked to see how many of these towns and cities are 18,000 people or less. Well, 90 percent of the towns and cities in the State of Tennessee are 18,000 people—18,000 residents or fewer than that.

Now, think about that. It is like a Tennessee town—that number of people coming across the border every day.

I would think that, you know, that it is the same thing, Mr. President, in Michigan. I don't know the number of towns and cities you have, but I would imagine that the majority of those are there also, 18,000 or fewer residents.

Think about this impact. How many days can you do that? How many weeks? How many years before you completely disrupt what is going on in your towns, in your State?

I have to ask you: What is so compassionate about subjecting 18,000 people a day—18,000—to the risk of exploitation by a drug cartel? And what is so compassionate about standing by while 18,000 people a day risk death by exposure in the desert? Is sticking to your talking points worth the lives of National Guardsmen like Bishop Evans, who drowned last week while trying to rescue migrants crossing the Rio Grande River?

The decision to abandon title 42 is dangerous, and, frankly, anyone who supports it should be ashamed of themselves.

Last month, I joined several of my colleagues on a letter to Chairman DURBIN, asking him to allow the Judiciary Committee to get some answers about how the administration plans to deal with this. The committee must use its oversight authority to summon Secretary Mayorkas for a hearing so he can explain his plan to prevent chaos on the border.

If that plan exists, we don't know about it. But, certainly, tripling the number of people per day at the southern border is going to create a chaotic situation.

I want to make it clear that this use of our oversight authority is the bare minimum, and, as of now, Chairman DURBIN has not indicated that he is willing to meet this very minimum bar.

We must not allow the administration to hide behind their title 42 talking points. The American people won't stand for it because they know that until Joe Biden secures the border, until he puts back in place the "Remain in Mexico" policy, until he keeps title 42, every town will be a border town and every State will be a border State.

When I am in Tennessee and talking with Tennesseans, what we know is that they are like a lot of people all across this country. They don't trust their government to have their interests at heart. They don't take the actions of their government seriously because in the Democratic-controlled government—all branches here in DC—they don't seem to take their jobs seriously. They are certainly not looking out for the American people. They are not taking actions that are going to reduce the cost of a gallon of gas at the pump or the cost of food at the grocery store or the cost of paint, the cost of fertilizer, the cost of tools—the list goes on and on.

But what they do believe is that it is time for this administration to make inflation, to make border security, to make the sovereignty of this Nation a priority and to begin to build a vision for this Nation, not just a to-do list.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion with respect to the Gomez nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.